GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3432
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
INDUCTION OF CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY
Pradhan Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the world`s third largest producer of coal but its sustainable development and production are the primary concerns to meet the growing energy demand of the country in the future;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to induct clean coal technology;

(c) whether the Government proposed to allow private sector participatian in order to bring in clean coal technology; and

(d) if so,the details of changes proposed by the Government in the regulatory and legislative frame-work for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR. D`ASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The details of the steps taken to induct clean coal technologies are as follows:

i) Government has notified thermal power stations located in specified areas to use coal with ash content not exceeding 34%. Govt. is encouraging setting Up of coal washeries by private operators on behalf of coai consumers.

ii) In order to harness Coal Bed Methane (CBM) potential in the country, Govt. formulated a CBM policy in 1997. A total of 16 CBM blocks have been awarded so far for exploration and production of CBM. In addition a demonstration project named Coal Bed Methane Recovery & Commercial Utilization has been taken up in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project has been sanctioned by Govt. of India in September,1999 and is under implementation at Sudamdih and Moonidih mines at BCCL.

iii) To establish underground coal gasification technology, a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has already been approved by Board of Directors of CIL. Initial work of data exchange needed for identification of trial site has been taken up.

iv) Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) proposes to take up a Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) project in a suitable lignite block in Rajasthan under Ministry of Coal`s S & T programme and Department of Science & Technology funding at a total cost of Rs. 1125 lakhs.

(c) & (d): Private Sector is already participating in the development of clean coal technologies like CBM and coal washeries.